

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN CU-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025973

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, CH
SUBJECT: GOC-PRC NEGOTIATIONS ON CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL
EXHIBITION

REF: PEKING 213

CANADIAN MEA OFFICIAL TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER FEBRUARY 7
THAT AT PRESENT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS NEITHER SIDE WILL
ACCEPT OTHER'S DRAFT ON HOST ARTISTIC CONTROL ISSUE.
CHINESE HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SIGN AGREEMENT BY
FEBRUARY 20. NOW CONVINCED THAT PRC WILL NOT BACK DOWN,
MEA CURRENT PLANNING IS TO RETURN TO TABLE ONCE OR TWICE
MORE WITH "FIRM REJECTION" OF CHINESE DRAFT AND THEN TO
GIVE WAY. MEA SEEMS CONCERNED OVER POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE
PUBLIC REACTION TO GOC ACCEPTANCE OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT IN
COMPARISON WITH OTHER HOST GOVERNMENTS, BUT APPARENTLY
REGARDS THIS AS LESS DAMAGING THAN COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIA-
TIONS.

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IN VIEW OF INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF CULTURAL MATTERS IN
POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, WE REMAIN MOST INTERESTED IN WHAT-
EVER YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PICK UP ON DETAILS AND ATMOS-
PHERICS OF GOC-PRC MEETINGS ON EXHIBITION. RUSH

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